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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NACLC welcomes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012

The National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc (NACLC) welcomes the introduction of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012* into Parliament.

“We are pleased that Minister Macklin has brought the Bill into the House of Representatives and see this as a vital step closer to an eventual recognition of Australia’s First Peoples in our Constitution,” said Michael Smith, NACLC National Convenor.

“NACLC is also pleased to hear that a Joint Select Committee will be established to continue to progress Indigenous constitutional recognition and build multi-partisan support across Parliament for successful passage of the Bill, and that there is a clear timeframe to build towards change.

“NACLC sees this Bill as a step closer and not a substitute for, constitutional change, and acknowledges the importance of multi-partisan support to ensure the final step will be constitutional change,” concluded Mr Smith.

Ends

For further information or to arrange an interview contact NACLC’s National Convenor Michael Smith 0421 437 883